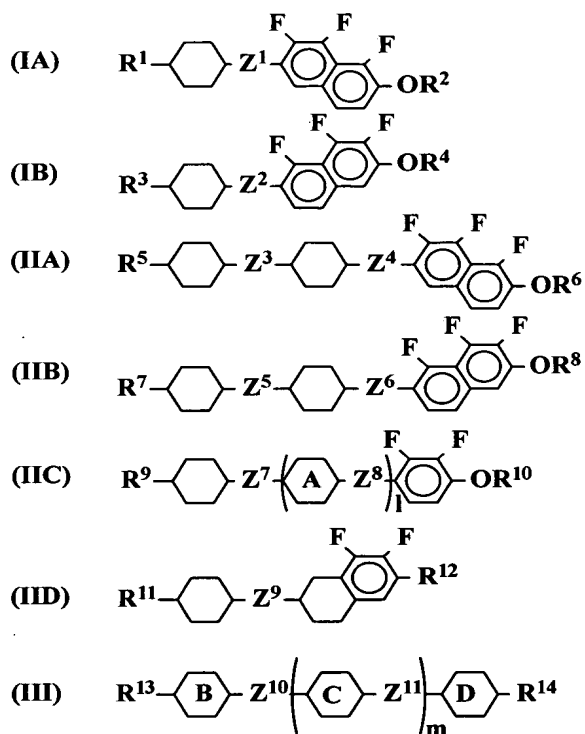


ABSTRACT

To provide a nematic liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric constant anisotropy, capable of driving at a low voltage, which has a negative dielectric constant anisotropy having a large absolute value, a wide range of a liquid crystal temperature and a low viscosity, and to provide a liquid crystal display device using the composition.

The present invention provides a nematic liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric constant anisotropy, comprising one or more compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA) and (IB) in the total content of 10 to 70% by mass, one or more compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA) to (IID) in the total content of 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of one or more compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA) to (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass:



wherein R^1 to R^{14} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, alkoxy group or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, or $-\text{COO}-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; Z^1 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, or $-\text{OCH}_2-$; Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, or $-\text{OCO}-$; l and m represent 0 or 1; rings A, B, C and D represent a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and rings B,

C and D represent a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group, and also provides a liquid crystal display device using the liquid crystal composition.